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SUMMER BIRDS OF THE NORTHWEST ANGLE PROVINCIAL FOREST AND ADJACENT SOUTHEASTERN MANITOBA, CANADA

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Abstract

Ornithological surveys to determine species distributions and habitat affinities in southeastern Manitoba were conducted from 25 May to 7 July 1978. The study area extended west from the Manitoba-Ontario boundary to the western limit of Range 13 East, and north from the Canada-U.S.A. border to the northern limit of Township 5. A total of 155 species was recorded during the study period. The diverse avifauna of southeastern Manitoba reflects the influences of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest to the southeast, the Boreal Forest to the north, and the transitional zone between the Grasslands and Boreal Forest to the west. Noteworthy observations were made of several species whose summer distributions in southeastern Manitoba previously were poorly documented, including Sandhill Crane, Marbled Godwit, Black-billed Magpie, Sprague's Pipit, Golden-winged Warbler, Northern Parula, Connecticut Warbler, and Scarlet Tanager. One hundred and ninety-one specimens representing 83 species were collected and subsequently deposited in the collections of the National Museum of Natural Sciences.

Résumé

L'auteur a entrepris un inventaire des oiseaux de sud-est du Manitoba, du 25 mai au 7 juillet 1978, afin de déterminer leur répartition et leurs affinités avec l'habitat. La région étudiée s'étend depuis la frontière Ontario-Manitoba jusqu'à la limite occidentale du *Range 13 East*, et depuis la frontière Canada-Etats-Unis jusqu'à la limite nord du canton n° 5. Durant cette période on a dénombré 155 espèces. La diversité de l'avifaune du sud-ouest du Manitoba tient de l'influence combinée de la Forêt Décidue boréale de la région du Saint-Laurent et des Grands Lacs au sud-est, de la Forêt Boréale au nord, ainsi que de la Zone de transition entre les steppes et la forêt boréale, à l'ouest. Parmi les observations consignées, plusieurs ont trait à des espèces dont la distribution estivale dans le sud-est du Manitoba était mal documentée, telles la Grue du Canada, la Barge marbrée, la Pie bavarde, le Pipit de Sprague, la Fauvette à ailes dorées, la Fauvette parula, la Fauvette à gorge grise et le Tangara écarlate. Les 191 spécimens recueillis se répartissent en 83 espèces et font partie des collections du Musée national des Sciences naturelles.

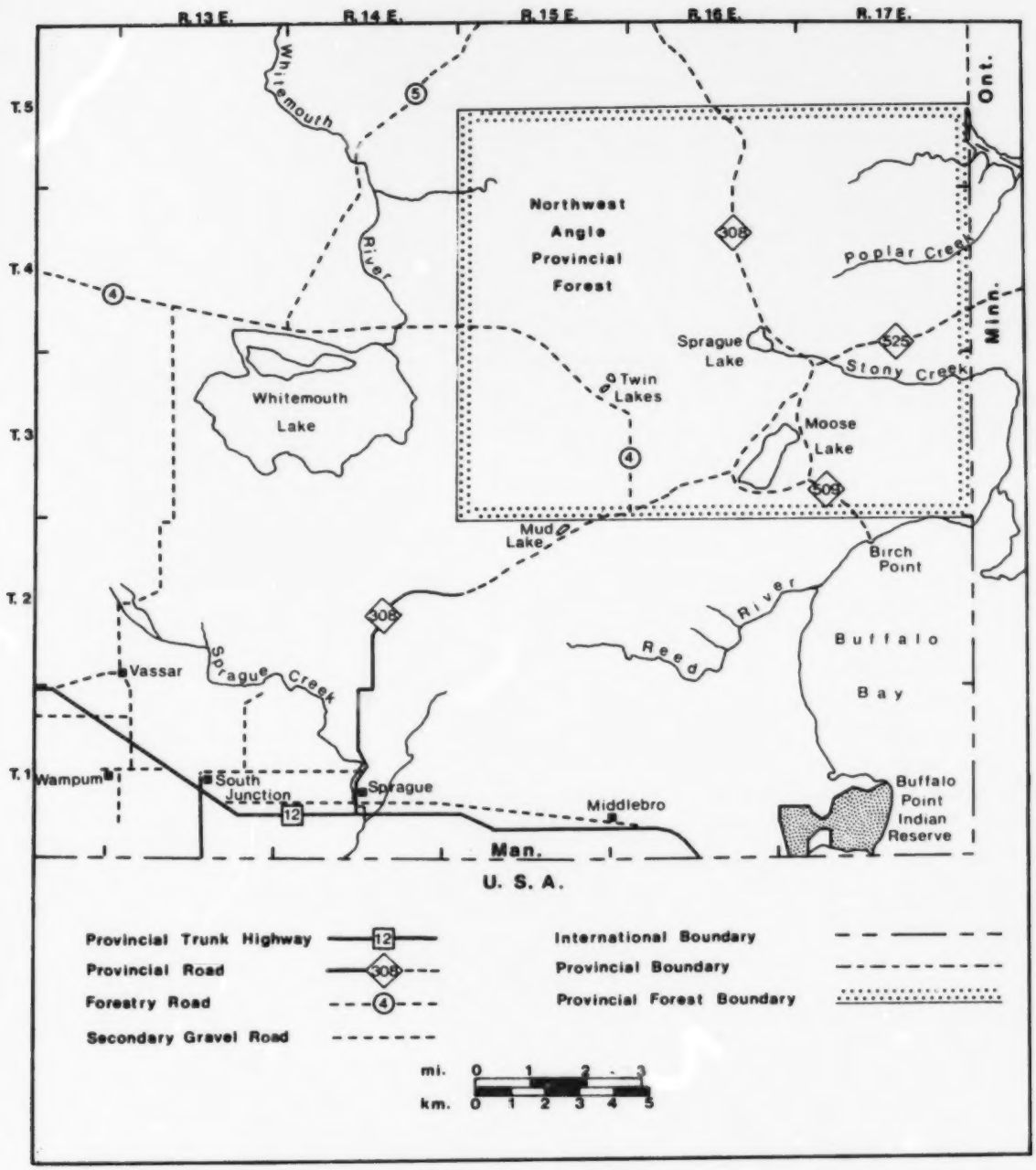

Figure 1. Map of southeastern Manitoba depicting the boundaries of the 1978 study area.

Introduction

This account summarizes results of an ornithological survey conducted in southeastern Manitoba from 25 May to 7 July 1978. I made daily observations within a 2400 km^2 area which extended west from the Manitoba-Ontario boundary to the western limit of Range 13 East, and north from the Canada-U.S.A. border to the northern limit of Township 5 (Figure 1). The Northwest Angle Provincial Forest occupies the northeastern quarter of this area. Brief visits were also made to Piney (25 km west of Sprague), Sundown (45 km west of Sprague), Caliento (56 km west of Sprague), and to Angle Inlet, Minnesota (20 km northeast of Sprague Lake).

The study area lies within the Rainy River Section at the western extremity of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest Region (Rowe 1972). The topography is flat to undulating and drainage is poor. These conditions have favoured the development of extensive swamps with a mixture of Black Spruce *(Picea mariana)*, Tamarack *(Larix laricina)*, and Eastern White Cedar *(Thuja occidentalis)* in varying proportions. On better drained sites, Balsam Poplar *(Populus balsamifera)*, White Birch *(Betula papyrifera)*, Trembling Aspen *(Populus tremuloides)*, White Spruce *(Picea glauca)*, and Balsam Fir *(Abies balsamea)* occur in mixed stands. Red Pine *(Pinus resinosa)* and Eastern White Pine *(Pinus strobus)*, formerly more widespread in distribution, grow in widely-scattered pockets or on plantations. These species have been replaced largely by pure stands of Jack Pine *(Pinus banksiana)* on logged or burned areas. Manitoba Maple *(Acer negundo)*, White Elm *(Ulmus americana)*, and Bur Oak *(Quercus macrocarpa)* occur at isolated sites along Whitemouth River and Sprague Creek. Stands of Trembling Aspen are widespread throughout the area. Agricultural lands comprise a small fraction of the total area and are mostly restricted to southern regions near Middlebro, Sprague, and South Junction. Approximately ten percent of the surface area is water, including Whitemouth, Moose, and Sprague Lakes, and Buffalo Bay, a western extension of Lake of the Woods.

Previous ornithological surveys in extreme southeastern Manitoba were conducted over brief periods and were incomplete. W.E. Godfrey and C.L. Thacker surveyed the area near Sprague and Middlebro on 15 and 16 July 1951 (Godfrey 1953) and J.D. Soper (1969) visited Whitemouth Lake from 13-15 May 1940. Ornithological studies of adjacent areas include Rowan's (1922a,b) observations at Waugh (formerly called Indian Bay) on the northwest shore of Shoal Lake, Godfrey's (1953) work in the Whitemouth-Julius-Rennie area north of the Trans-Canada Highway, and Snyder's (1938) investigations at various localities in the Rainy River District of Ontario. Soper (1969) made brief visits to the Sandilands Provincial Forest in 1937, 1938, 1943, and 1948.

Methods

During the study period, all major habitats were visited and surveyed either on foot or by canoe. Daily observations of birds and their habitat affinities were recorded. For those species of taxonomic interest, individuals were collected and prepared as museum specimens. One hundred and ninety-one specimens were collected and subsequently deposited in the collections of the National Museum of Natural Sciences.

Species Accounts

A total of 155 species was recorded during the 1978 study. Scientific nomenclature and species sequence follow the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist (1957) and Amendments (1973, 1976). A number in brackets following a scientific name indicates the number of specimens collected.

COMMON LOON *Gavia immer*

Common Loons were observed throughout the month of June on Sprague Lake (2 pairs) and Whitemouth Lake (1-6 individuals per day). Observations of lone birds were made also at Mud Lake (13 June), Moose Lake (24 and 29 June) and on a cattail pond south of Middlebro (19 June). No nests were found but the territorial behaviour and vocalizations of the loons on Sprague Lake were indicative of breeding pairs.

HORNED GREBE *Podiceps auritus*

Single birds were observed on Mud Lake on 26, 27 and 28 May. A pair observed on this lake on 13 and 25 June may have nested in emergent vegetation near the northeast shoreline.

EARED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*

Two individuals were observed on Whitemouth Lake on 28 May.

WESTERN GREBE *Aechmophorus occidentalis*

A group of 15 was observed on Whitemouth Lake on 28 May. Other sightings at Whitemouth Lake were made on 29 May (6), 13 June (3), and 27 June (2). I found no evidence to suggest that these birds attempted to nest on Whitemouth Lake.

WHITE PELICAN *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*

This species was observed in flocks of varying size (2-110 birds) on Buffalo Bay, Whitemouth Lake, and Moose Lake. Large feeding groups gathered along the northwest shore of Whitemouth Lake during the evenings throughout June and early July.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax auritus*

A group of 9 individuals was observed on Whitemouth Lake on 13 June. A second sighting was made at Big Traverse Bay on 6 July (4 birds).

GREAT BLUE HERON *Ardea herodias*

Herons were observed in small numbers (1-6 per day) throughout the month of June. Feeding areas included the shallow water and marshy edges of Whitemouth Lake, Moose Lake, Mud Lake, Stony Creek, and Sprague Creek.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax*

A single observation of one adult was made at Whitemouth Lake on 13 June.

AMERICAN BITTERN *Botaurus lentiginosus*

This species was recorded in small numbers (1-5 per day) on 10 days between 27 May and 6 July. Most observations were made in marshy habitats at Whitemouth Lake, Mud Lake, Reed River, and Buffalo Point.

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*

One sighting of two individuals was made at Whitemouth Lake on 27 June. Mr. R. Kemp, District Conservation Officer at Sprague, reported a family of Canada Geese along Forestry Road 4 north of Whitemouth Lake on 25 June.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

Mallards were observed on a daily basis in wetland habitats throughout the area. A nest containing 9 eggs was discovered by R.M. Poulin near Mud Lake on 28 May. Between 7 June and 6 July, I recorded 12 broods at various localities, including Whitemouth Lake, Sprague Lake, Moose Lake, and Whitemouth River. Brood size ranged from 4-13 ducklings.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas crecca*

Green-winged Teal frequented ponds, roadside drainage channels, and large lakes throughout the area. The maximum number observed on one day was 14 individuals on Whitemouth and Mud Lakes on 13 June.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL *Anas discors*

This species was recorded in small numbers (1-10 per day) on 13 days between 26 May and 27 June. Most observations were made at Stony Creek, Whitemouth River, Whitemouth Lake, and Sprague Lake.

AMERICAN WIGEON *Anas americana*

On 17 June, a female with 9 class Ia young was observed on Sprague Lake. Other sightings were made at Whitemouth Lake, Mud Lake, and Buffalo Bay on 12 days between 26 May and 5 July (1-5 individuals per day).

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa*

Wood Ducks were recorded on 9 days between 26 May and 29 June. A female with 9 ducklings was observed along the Whitemouth River on 19 June. In late May, as many as 6 males were observed per day on a pond along Provincial Road 308, 6.4 km north of Moose Lake.

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris*

This species was observed on 13 days between 27 May and 6 July (1-20 per day) on Whitemouth Lake, Mud Lake, and Sprague Lake.

LESSER SCAUP *Aythya affinis*

Scaup were observed on 13 days between 26 May and 28 June (as many as 25 per day) on Sprague, Moose, and Whitemouth Lakes.

COMMON GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*

Adults were regularly observed in small numbers on Moose Lake in late May and early June. On 21 June, a female with 5 young was observed on Moose Lake and, on 28 June, a female with 32 ducklings was recorded on Moose Lake. Based on size differences among ducklings of this large brood, the young were undoubtedly the product of more than one nest.

BUFFLEHEAD *Bucephala albeola*

These ducks were recorded daily in small numbers (2-3 per day) on Moose Lake between 28 May and 2 June.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER *Melanitta deglandi*

A pair was observed on Sprague Lake on 1 June and again on 4 June. The only other observation was of 4 individuals on Buffalo Bay on 26 May.

HOODED MERGANSER *Lophodytes cucullatus*

On 29 June, a female with 10 downy young was observed in a drainage channel south of Piney. Other adults were sighted at the mouth of Whitemouth River and on a pond north of Moose Lake on 27 and 31 May, and 6 June.

COMMON MERGANSER *Mergus merganser*

Two small groups of adult males were observed on Buffalo Bay on 26 May and 30 May. A lone female was recorded at Whitemouth Lake on 13 June.

TURKEY VULTURE *Cathartes aura*

Single birds were observed on two separate occasions: on 26 May 5 km west of Moose Lake and on 16 June in the vicinity of Twin Lakes.

COOPER'S HAWK *Accipiter cooperii*

Single birds were observed on 4 days between 27 May and 10 June in areas of deciduous forest near Mud Lake and Whitemouth Lake.

RED-TAILED HAWK *Buteo jamaicensis*

Red-tailed Hawks were observed in small numbers (1-4 per day) on a regular basis throughout the area. On 28 May, an active nest was discovered 15 m above ground in a dead Balsam Poplar near Mud Lake.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK *Buteo platypterus*

This species was observed on 13 days between 26 May and 5 July in fairly open deciduous forests with clearings and cut areas (1-4 individuals per day). Immatures were first noted flying near Sprague Lake on 17 June.

MARSH HAWK *Circus cyaneus*

Marsh Hawks were encountered on 6 days near agricultural lands at Piney and Sprague and in open marshy habitats (1-3 individuals per day).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

On 26, 29, and 30 May, one individual was observed at the same locality along the shore of Buffalo Bay near Birch Point.

AMERICAN KESTREL *Falco sparverius* (1)

Kestrels were observed daily in moderate numbers (2-20 per day) throughout the area. They were most frequently encountered perched on dead limbs, telephone poles, and wires along roadsides and in farmlands near Sprague and Middlebro.

SPRUCE GROUSE *Canachites canadensis*

One sighting of a male was made on 20 June in dense coniferous forest southwest of South Junction.

RUFFED GROUSE *Bonasa umbellus* (2)

Ruffed Grouse were seen or heard drumming on a daily basis throughout the area. Females with broods were encountered in deciduous habitats on 20, 21, 22, and 29 June. Brood size of 4 females ranged from 7-11 young. Drumming was heard as late as 5 July.

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE *Pedioecetes phasianellus*

Three individuals were observed feeding in a cultivated field east of Sprague on 4 June.

SANDHILL CRANE *Grus canadensis*

Small groups of Sandhill Cranes were recorded on 7 days between 27 May and 6 July. On three occasions, small flocks (4-12 individuals) were observed feeding on agricultural lands west of Whitemouth Lake (31 May and 10 June) and south of Piney (24 June). Their vocalizations were heard in the Sprague Lake area on 4 June and in marshy habitats at Buffalo Point on 6 July.

SORA *Porzana carolina*

Soras were heard or seen almost daily throughout June (1-10 individuals per day) in marshy areas bordering Whitemouth Lake, Whitemouth River, Mud Lake, Sprague Lake, Stony Creek and in wet sedge meadows and cattail marshes.

YELLOW RAIL *Coturnicops noveboracensis*

At dusk on 6 July, I heard the distinctive call-notes of at least 7 individuals in an extensive sedge and grass marsh within Buffalo Point Indian Reservation. Calling was intermittent and lasted for about 30 minutes.

AMERICAN COOT *Fulica americana*

One adult was observed on a cattail pond southeast of Middlebro on 19 June.

KILLDEER *Charadrius vociferus* (1)

This species was observed almost daily in moderate numbers (1-30 per day) along roads and on farmlands throughout the area. Several unfledged young were seen with adults on 24 June.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK *Philohela minor* (1)

Single birds were recorded on 3 days (27 and 28 May, 15 June) near the Moose Lake campground.

COMMON SNIPE *Capella gallinago*

Snipe were encountered in small numbers (1-10 per day) on 10 days between 26 May and 6 July in suitable habitats throughout the area. They were most numerous in low marshy vegetation around the periphery of Mud Lake and Whitemouth Lake, and the mouth of Whitemouth River.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER *Actitis macularia* (1)

On 6 July, 3 adults and 3 downy young were observed along the edges of water-filled borrow pits south of Middlebro. From 26 May to 9 June, 10 adults were seen in various shoreline habitats, including Birch Point and Whitemouth Lake.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER *Tringa solitaria*

Two individuals were observed on 27 May north of Moose Lake. This species was not seen again until 6 July, when 2 were observed feeding at the edge of a water-filled borrow pit south of Middlebro.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa flavipes*

On 6 July, 3 individuals were observed at borrow pits south of Middlebro.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis*

On 10 June, one was observed feeding along the edge of a water-filled depression in a cultivated field west of Whitemouth Lake.

LEAST SANDPIPER *Calidris minutilla*

On 6 July, one was observed along the edge of a water-filled borrow pit south of Middlebro.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

On 31 May, one was seen feeding in a shallow, water-filled depression on a cultivated field west of Whitemouth Lake.

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER *Calidris pusilla*

One was observed feeding along the edge of a water-filled depression west of Whitemouth Lake on 10 June.

MARBLED GODWIT *Limosa fedoa* (1)

On 24 June, 5 adults were observed at 3 different sites in grassy fields south of Piney. The behaviour of one pair indicated a nest or young nearby. One adult was seen south of Piney on 29 June and, on the same date, an adult was recorded east of Caliento.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE *Steganopus tricolor* (2)

This species was observed on 5 days between 29 May and 6 July at Whitemouth Lake, Buffalo Point Indian Reservation, and west of Sundown (1-7 per day).

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

Herring Gulls were observed in varying numbers (1-100 per day) on 9 days in May and June at Moose Lake, Whitemouth Lake, Sprague, and Birch Point.

RING-BILLED GULL *Larus delawarensis*

This species was observed on 6 days in moderate numbers (3-40 per day) at Birch Point, Big Traverse Bay, Sprague Lake, and Whitemouth Lake.

BONAPARTE'S GULL *Larus philadelphia* (1)

Small numbers (1-12 per day) were recorded on 4 days at Whitemouth Lake, Buffalo Bay, and Big Traverse Bay. All individuals were in first-year plumage.

FORSTER'S TERN *Sterna forsteri* (1)

Forster's Terns were sighted on 3 occasions at Whitemouth Lake: 29 May (12), 6 June (15), and 13 June (5).

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* (1)

Observed in large numbers (75 per day) at Buffalo Bay in late May, Common Terns were recorded infrequently in June at Birch Point (1 bird, 5 June) and Whitemouth Lake (10 birds, 13 June).

CASPIAN TERN *Sterna caspia*

Five individuals were observed on 26 May at Buffalo Bay.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger* (2)

Black Terns were recorded in moderate numbers (up to 40 per day) on 15 days between 28 May and 6 July at Whitemouth Lake and open boggy areas. This species was especially common in extensive marshy areas of the Buffalo Point Indian Reservation.

MOURNING DOVE *Zenaida macroura* (1)

Daily observations (up to 30 per day) were made along roadsides and about farmlands near Sprague, Middlebro, Piney, and Vassar.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO *Coccyzus erythropthalmus* (1)

Cuckoos were recorded almost daily in small numbers (1-5 per day) in deciduous tangles, brushy second-growth aspen, and shrubbery about buildings.

GREAT HORNED OWL *Bubo virginianus*

Single birds were observed on 14 June, west of Sprague, and on 17 June at Twin Lakes.

WHIP-POOR-WILL *Caprimulgus vociferus*

This species was recorded on 20 days in deciduous habitats throughout the area. At dusk on 8 June, 7 individuals were heard calling along a 5 km length of Provincial Road 308 west of Moose Lake. A few birds were heard calling at dusk as late as 5 July.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK *Chordeiles minor*

Nighthawks were observed in small numbers (1-3 per day) on 8 days at Sprague, Moose Lake, and Whitemouth Lake.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD *Archilochus colubris*

Single birds were observed on 5 separate occasions.

BELTED KINGFISHER *Megaceryle alcyon*

Two individuals were observed feeding along Whitemouth River on 19 June. Other sightings of single birds were made at Moose Lake (28 June), Whitemouth Lake (5 July), and Buffalo Point (6 July).

COMMON FLICKER *Colaptes auratus* (1)

Daily sightings (1-6 per day) were made in deciduous habitats and agricultural lands throughout the area.

PILEATED WOODPECKER *Dryocopus pileatus*

Observations of single birds were made on 4 days between 2 and 19 June at Moose Lake, Whitemouth Lake, and Twin Lakes.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* (2)

Sightings of individual birds were made on 29 May near Whitemouth Lake and on 29 June west of Ar[illegible]ka (62 km west of Sprague). A dead male was found along Provincial Road 201, 1.6 km east of Sundown, on 8 July.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER *Sphyrapicus varius* (2)

Small numbers (1-6 per day) were observed on 12 days between 26 May and 2 July in birch and aspen stands of fairly open deciduous woods.

HAIRY WOODPECKER *Picoides villosus* (2)

Hairy Woodpeckers were frequently observed in deciduous habitats. On 3 June, an adult was observed carrying food into a nesting cavity 8 m above ground in a living Balsam Poplar near Twin Lakes. On 7 June, a second nest was located in a cavity 5 m above ground in a Balsam Poplar 9.5 km east of Whitemouth Lake.

DOWNY WOODPECKER *Picoides pubescens* (1)

This species was recorded on only 4 days (3 sightings of single birds and a fourth sighting of 2 birds). Godfrey (1953) also commented on the apparent rareness of this species in the Whitemouth - Otter Falls area of southeastern Manitoba.

EASTERN KINGBIRD *Tyrannus tyrannus* (2)

From 2-10 individuals were observed on a daily basis throughout the area. They were most numerous near farmlands and along roads. A nest containing 3 eggs was found on 10 June northwest of Whitemouth Lake.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER *Myiarchus crinitus* (2)

Small numbers (1-6 per day) were observed on 19 days between 26 May and 5 July in tall deciduous forests throughout the area. During June, most birds were observed in pairs.

EASTERN PHOEBE *Sayornis phoebe* (1)

A nest containing 6 eggs was found on a window ledge of the forestry cabin at Moose Lake on 26 May. Five young fledged from this nest on 16 June and a second clutch was subsequently laid. Other pairs nested in a picnic shelter at Moose Lake, in an abandoned cabin at Whitemouth Lake, and underneath a bridge north of Vassar.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER *Empidonax flaviventris* (3)

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were recorded in small numbers (1-5 per day) on 8 days between 27 May and 20 June in dense coniferous growths of Black Spruce, Tamarack, and, occasionally, Eastern White Cedar. Suitable habitat existed throughout the area.

ALDER FLYCATCHER *Empidonax alnorum* (2)

Small numbers (1-12 per day) were observed daily in willow *(Salix sp.)* stands bordering wetlands throughout the area. Songs of all birds were of the 'wee-bee-o" type.

LEAST FLYCATCHER *Empidonax minimus* (2)

Least Flycatchers were observed almost daily in open deciduous areas, including stands of White Birch, Trembling Aspen and Bur Oak. As many as 20 individuals were seen in a day.

EASTERN WOOD PEWEE *Contopus virens* (10)

Small numbers (1-10 per day) were observed daily in a variety of woodland habitats. This species was most frequently encountered in stands of tall Jack Pine with a very sparse understory. Other habitats included stands of mature Balsam Poplar, mixed stands of Balsam Fir, White Birch and Trembling Aspen, and open stands of mature Red Pine.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER *Nuttallornis borealis* (1)

Recorded on 10 days between 27 May and 23 June (1-5 per day), Olive-sided Flycatchers were locally distributed in open boggy areas with scattered trees and along wet edges of Black Spruce - Tamarack forests.

HORNED LARK *Eremophila alpestris* (3)

Horned Larks were regularly observed on agricultural lands near Sprague, Middlebro, Vassar, Piney, and west of Whitemouth Lake.

TREE SWALLOW *Iridoprocne bicolor*

Moderate numbers (2-15 per day) were observed in open habitats throughout the area.

BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* (1)

Barn Swallows were widely distributed throughout the area, but were most common near towns, settlements and farmyards. As many as 40 individuals were observed per day.

CLIFF SWALLOW *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* (4)

Cliff Swallows were recorded in large numbers where suitable nesting sites were found. On 24 June, I located approximately 100 nests underneath 4 bridges south of Piney. Many pairs also nested underneath the eaves of barns and abandoned buildings near Sprague and Whitemouth Lake.

PURPLE MARTIN *Progne subis*

Purple Martins were locally distributed in areas where martin houses were maintained, including Sprague, Middlebro, and Moose Lake.

GRAY JAY *Perisoreus canadensis* (3)

Small numbers (1-3 per day) were observed in moist coniferous habitats on 9 days between 27 May and 23 June.

BLUE JAY *Cyanocitta cristata* (2)

Blue Jays were recorded daily (3-40 per day) in most deciduous and mixed forest habitats. Birds in small, noisy flocks (3-7 individuals) between 26 May and 3 June appeared to be migrants.

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE *Pica pica*

One observation of 2 individuals was made on agricultural lands southeast of Piney on 24 June.

COMMON RAVEN *Corvus corax*

Widespread throughout the area, ravens were seen in small numbers (less than 10 per day) in late May and early June, but in late June up to 25 individuals were recorded per day.

COMMON CROW *Corvus brachyrhynchos*

More local in distribution than ravens, crows were generally associated with agricultural lands (1-10 per day).

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE *Parus atricapillus* (3)

Black-capped Chickadees were observed on 11 days between 28 May and 7 July in mixed forests of Balsam Fir and Balsam Poplar (1-3 birds per day).

BOREAL CHICKADEE *Parus hudsonicus*

A single observation of a lone individual was made near Mud Lake on 28 May.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH *Sitta canadensis*

Recorded on 7 days between 26 May and 23 June, this species was found in mature coniferous and mixed woodlands near Moose Lake, Mud Lake, and Sprague Lake. No more than 3 birds were observed in a day.

BROWN CREEPER *Certhia familiaris* (2)

This species was observed on 13 June (1) and 15 June (1) near Mud Lake, and on 23 June (2) 1.6 km west of Moose Lake.

HOUSE WREN *Troglodytes aedon* (3)

Observed on 14 days between 26 May and 6 July, House Wrens frequented deciduous woods and thickets and shrubby areas of towns and farmlands (1-5 per day).

WINTER WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* (1)

Sightings were made on 6 days and were widely scattered over the area. Single birds were recorded on 28 May, 13, 28, and 30 June, and 2 birds per day were recorded on 21 and 27 June.

LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN *Cistothorus palustris* (1)

This species was observed on 5 days between 6 June and 5 July (1-6 per day) in stands of cattail and *Phragmites sp.* at Whitemouth Lake, Sprague Lake, Whitemouth River, and in small cattail ponds.

SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN *Cistothorus platensis* (4)

Short-billed Marsh Wrens were locally common (up to 25 birds per day) in open, wet habitats with short growths of sedges and grasses, and along the shores of boggy lakes (Sprague Lake, Twin Lakes, and Whitemouth Lake).

GRAY CATBIRD *Dumetella carolinensis* (1)

Catbirds were recorded on 12 days in small numbers (1-4 per day) in willow and alder thickets along the edges of rivers and lakes, and in shrubby, second-growth aspen stands.

BROWN THRASHER *Toxostoma rufum*

Observed on only 5 days, this species was recorded in small numbers (1 or 2 per day) about shrubby fence rows and roadsides in agricultural lands near Sprague, Middlebro, and Vassar.

AMERICAN ROBIN *Turdus migratorius* (6)

Robins were widely distributed throughout the area, but were most commonly observed near human dwellings and in partly cleared deciduous woodlands (1-10 per day).

HERMIT THRUSH *Catharus guttatus* (5)

This species was locally common in damp coniferous areas of Black Spruce and Tamarack, and frequently seen in dry, Jack Pine forests and plantations (1-15 individuals per day).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH *Catharus ustulatus* (2)

Small numbers (1-5 per day) were observed on 9 days in mature stands of Balsam Poplar and White Birch with a moderately dense understory of young Balsam Fir and White Spruce.

VEERY *Catharus fuscescens* (5)

This species was observed almost daily (3-15 per day) in deciduous woodlands throughout the area.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD *Sialia sialis*

On 14 June, a pair of bluebirds was observed along Highway 12 south of Vassar, an area where nest boxes are maintained by local residents.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET *Regulus satrapa* (2)

A group of 3 birds was observed in dense coniferous woods southwest of South Junction on 20 June. The only other observation was of 2 birds in similar habitat on 23 June.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET *Regulus calendula* (1)

Small numbers (1-3 per day) were observed in Black Spruce-Tamarack forests on 9 days, the last observation on 27 June.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT *Anthus spragueii*

On 24 June, the distinctive song of one, possibly two, birds was heard high in the air above short grass fields south of Piney.

CEDAR WAXWING *Bombycilla cedrorum* (2)

Waxwings were observed almost daily in moderate numbers (2-25 per day) throughout the area. On 13 June, a pair was observed building a nest at Moose Lake.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

Starlings were locally common in towns and near other human dwellings.

SOLITARY VIREO *Vireo solitarius* (1)

A single observation of one individual was made in moist coniferous woods southwest of South Junction on 20 June.

RED-EYED VIREO *Vireo olivaceus* (4)

Large numbers (10-50 per day) were recorded daily in deciduous and mixed woodlands. An individual carrying nesting material was observed on 12 June.

WARBLING VIREO *Vireo gilvus* (1)

Warbling Vireos were recorded on 9 days between 26 May and 5 July (1-4 per day) in shade trees about towns and farmyards. This species was more common west of the study area in the small aspen groves of agricultural lands in the Sundown-Caliento area where 8 singing males were noted on 29 June.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER *Mniotilta varia* (2)

A fairly common and widespread resident of deciduous and mixed woodlands (1-10 birds per day), singing males were heard daily until 26 June.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER *Vermivora chrysoptera* (3)

Singing males were observed on 26 May (1), 29 May (1), and 12 June (1) in second-growth aspen stands. The sighting on 12 June was made near Twin Lakes and, on 18 June, a female was flushed from the same site. Her behaviour indicated a nest nearby but I was unable to find one.

TENNESSEE WARBLER *Vermivora peregrina*

Sightings of birds on 3 June (2) and 6 June (2) probably represented late migrants. This species was not recorded after 6 June.

NASHVILLE WARBLER *Vermivora ruficapilla* (4)

Nashville Warblers were widely distributed (up to 30 birds per day) in second-growth deciduous and mixed forests, especially those with scattered clearings. This species was also regularly observed in Black Spruce - Tamarack bogs with sparse to moderate tree cover.

NORTHERN PARULA *Parula americana*

Parulas were locally distributed in dense coniferous and mixed forests with a high proportion of Black Spruce, Tamarack, Eastern White Cedar or Balsam Fir. Singing males were noted on 5 days between 26 May and 28 June at Birch Point, Sprague Lake, Mud Lake, and Angle Inlet.

YELLOW WARBLER *Dendroica petechia* (3)

Recorded on 14 days between 26 May and 6 July (2-8 per day), Yellow Warblers inhabited alder and willow thickets along the edges of Sprague Lake, Stony Creek, and other wet habitats.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER *Dendroica magnolia* (4)

This species was locally distributed in mixed forests with a moderately dense understory of second-growth Balsam Fir. Magnolia Warblers were recorded on 8 days between 26 May and 2 July (1-4 per day).

CAPE MAY WARBLER *Dendroica tigrina*

Observations on 4 days between 26 May and 1 June (1-2 per day) were likely of late migrants.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER *Dendroica coronata* (1)

Yellow-rumped Warblers were noted on 7 days between 26 May and 23 June (1-10 per day) in mature stands of Black Spruce and Tamarack at Birch Point, Mud Lake, and in the vicinity of Twin Lakes and Moose Lake.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER *Dendroica virens* (2)

Small numbers (1-6 per day) were observed almost daily in mixed forests of White Birch, Trembling Aspen, Balsam Fir and White Spruce.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER *Dendroica fusca* (2)

An uncommon and sparsely distributed species of mixed and coniferous forests, singing males were noted at Mud Lake (13 June), Sprague Lake (15 June), Twin Lakes (18 June) and Moose Lake (23 June).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER *Dendroica pensylvanica* (4)

Chestnut-sided Warblers were observed daily in second-growth deciduous stands and dry, shrubby habitats throughout the area. Sparse stands of Trembling Aspen and White Birch with a dense understory of raspberry *(Rubus sp.)* and rose *(Rosa sp.)* were ideal for these birds.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER *Dendroica castanea*

One individual was observed at Birch Point on 26 May.

PALM WARBLER *Dendroica palmarum*

One singing male, probably a migrant, was observed in an open Black Spruce - Tamarack bog near Whitemouth Lake on 29 May.

OVENBIRD *Seiurus aurocapillus* (2)

Singing males were recorded daily in deciduous and, to a lesser extent, mixed woodlands throughout the area. During June, as many as 50 individuals were recorded in one day.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER *Oporornis agilis* (4)

Recorded on 13 days between 27 May and 24 June (1-16 per day), singing males were identified in moist habitats of mature Black Spruce and in dry, upland stands of Jack Pine along the sandy ridge near the north shore of Whitemouth Lake.

MOURNING WARBLER *Oporornis philadelphia* (2)

Singing males were heard daily (1-12 per day) in overgrown forest clearings and in shrubby edge vegetation of deciduous and mixed woodlands.

YELLOWTHROAT *Geothlypis trichas* (3)

Moderate numbers (1-30 per day) were observed daily in suitable moist habitats throughout the area, particularly in willow thickets along streams and shorelines.

WILSON'S WARBLER *Wilsonia pusilla*

One individual, probably a migrant, was observed at Birch Point on 26 May.

CANADA WARBLER *Wilsonia canadensis* (2)

Canada Warblers were locally distributed in mixed woodlands (Trembling Aspen, White Birch and Balsam Fir) with a moderately dense understory of young aspen and fir. Singing males were recorded on 11 days between 28 May and 2 July (1-6 per day).

AMERICAN REDSTART *Setophaga ruticilla* (1)

Redstarts were observed on 11 days between 26 May and 6 July in second-growth deciduous habitats, especially in open willow and alder thickets along the Whitemouth River (1-10 per day).

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

This species was infrequently observed near farmyards and other human dwellings at Sprague.

BOBOLINK *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* (1)

Bobolinks were observed on 12 days between 26 May and 29 June in pastures and hayfields near Sprague, Vassar and Piney (1-15 per day). Singing males were also recorded in open, boggy areas with scattered Tamarack which were used as singing posts. Grasses and sedges growing in 8-10 cm of standing water dominated the ground cover.

WESTERN MEADOWLARK *Sturnella neglecta* (1)

Meadowlarks were locally common (1-30 per day) in agricultural lands near Sprague, Vassar, Piney, and Middlebro.

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD *Agelaius phoeniceus* (1)

This species was recorded on 16 days between 26 May and 6 July (5-30 per day) in marshy habitats throughout the area. A female was flushed from a nest in a cattail stand near Whitemouth Lake on 29 May.

NORTHERN ORIOLE *Icterus galbula* (1)

Small numbers (1-4 per day) were observed on 15 days between 26 May and 6 July in more open deciduous woodlands and about shade trees in residential areas. A nest in a White Elm was found at Sprague on 14 June.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD *Euphagus cyanocephalus* (2)

This species was locally common (2-40 per day) on farmlands, along roadsides and in recently disturbed weedy habitats with low shrubs. A female carrying food in her bill was collected near the west shore of Whitemouth Lake on 16 June.

COMMON GRACKLE *Quiscalus quiscula* (1)

Grackles were recorded in a wide variety of wooded habitats on 12 days between 26 May and 24 June (1-7 individuals per day).

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD *Molothrus ater* (1)

Cowbirds were observed almost daily throughout the area. Flocks of up to 60 individuals frequently fed on the ground at Birch Point in late May and early June.

SCARLET TANAGER *Piranga olivacea* (3)

Singing males were recorded in mature deciduous woodlands (predominantly Balsam Poplar stands) on 9 days between 26 May and 23 June (1-6 per day) at Moose Lake, Whitemouth Lake, Sprague Lake, and Twin Lakes.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK *Pheucticus ludovicianus* (3)

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were recorded almost daily in deciduous woodlands throughout the area (1-10 per day).

INDIGO BUNTING *Passerina cyanea* (4)

Singing males were heard almost daily between 27 May and 26 June (1-8 per day) along roadsides, woodland edges and other similar habitats with shrubby ground cover.

EVENING GROSBEAK *Hesperiphona vespertina* (1)

Three observations, each of 2 birds, were made on 28 May, 30 May, and 12 June in the vicinity of Moose Lake.

PURPLE FINCH *Carpodacus purpureus*

Purple Finches were observed on 6 days between 27 May and 23 June in a variety of woodland habitats (1-3 per day).

PINE SISKIN *Carduelis pinus*

Pine Siskins were observed on 3 days in late May at Birch Point, Whitemouth Lake, and north of Moose Lake (2 birds per day).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH *Carduelis tristis* (1)

Observed on 17 days between 5 May and 29 June (1-10 per day), this species frequented roadsides, farmlands, and open second-growth habitats throughout the area.

RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*

One observation of a lone male was made on 26 May in deciduous woodland west of Moose Lake.

SAVANNAH SPARROW *Passerculus sandwichensis* (4)

Savannah Sparrows were recorded on 10 days between 26 May and 29 June (2-30 per day) in croplands, meadows and open grassy habitats near Sprague, Vassar, Middlebro, and Piney.

LECONTE'S SPARROW *Ammospiza leconteii* (2)

This species was identified on 11 days between 27 May and 6 July on moist sites of short grasses and sedges in open bogs, and near lakes and streams. A maximum of 4 birds per day was recorded on 27 May and again on 6 July.

VESPER SPARROW *Pooecetes gramineus* (2)

An uncommon and locally distributed species of open, dry habitats (hayfields, pastures, and clearings created by the cutting and removal of timber), Vesper Sparrows were noted on 8 days between 2 and 24 June (1-5 per day).

DARK-EYED JUNCO *Junco hyemalis*

One singing male was noted at Moose Lake on 28 May.

CHIPPING SPARROW *Spizella passerina* (9)

Chipping Sparrows were recorded on 16 days between 26 May and 24 June (1-15 per day) in a wide variety of woodland habitats including Jack Pine stands on dry, sandy sites and very moist woodlands of Black Spruce and Tamarack. On 21 June, an adult was observed carrying nesting material at Moose Lake.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW *Spizella pallida* (2)

Singing males were noted on 14 days (1-8 per day) between 26 May and 6 July in overgrown pastures and meadows of agricultural lands, and along woodland edges, particularly those of second-growth aspen.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW *Zonotrichia albicollis* (2)

White-throated Sparrows were widely distributed in coniferous and mixed forests throughout the area. Between 2 and 25 individuals per day were observed on 17 days from 26 May to 5 July.

SWAMP SPARROW *Melospiza georgiana* (3)

Swamp Sparrows were locally distributed in marshy and low-lying areas with tall stands of emergent vegetation (e.g. *Typha* and *Phragmites spp.*). Singing males were recorded on 13 days between 27 May and 5 July (1-10 per day)

SONG SPARROW *Melospiza melodia* (4)

Song Sparrows were observed on 15 days (1-8 per day) in brushy tangles, along fence rows and roadsides, and near forest edges throughout the area.

Discussion

The avifauna of southeastern Manitoba is diverse and reflects the influences of the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Forest to the southeast, the Boreal Forest to the north, and the transitional zone between Grasslands and Boreal Forest to the west (see Rowe 1972 for their relative distributions). Species compositions of birds in deciduous and mixed wood habitats show many similarities to the Eastern Deciduous Forest and Eastern Ecotone bird faunas (see Udvardy 1963). Characteristic species include the Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee, Blue Jay, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Veery, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Ovenbird, Canada Warbler, American Redstart, Common Grackle, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Indigo Bunting. Species such as the American Woodcock, Northern Parula, Pine Warbler, and Scarlet Tanager approach the western limits of their breeding ranges in this part of Manitoba. Although Godfrey (1953) reported Pine Warblers near South Junction in 1951, attempts to locate this species in 1978 were unsuccessful. Its absence was likely due to a lack of suitable nesting habitat. Logging operations have nearly eliminated the mature stands of Red and White Pine from extreme southeastern Manitoba.

The avifauna of the extensive coniferous forests of Black Spruce, Tamarack, and Eastern White Cedar is represented by many species of the Boreal Forest fauna. Of general distribution throughout this habitat are the Tree Swallow, Gray Jay, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Connecticut Warbler, and White-throated Sparrow. The following species are more locally distributed: Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Boreal Chickadee, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Solitary Vireo, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Purple Finch. Interspersed throughout the coniferous forests are open bogs and wet sedge-grass meadows inhabited by Common Snipe, Black Tern, Short-billed Marsh Wren LeConte's Sparrow and, locally, Yellow Rail. Mixed woodlands with a high proportion of White Spruce, Balsam Fir, and Eastern White Cedar support other boreal species including Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, and Swainson's Thrush.

Representative species of the grasslands and aspen parkland communities to the west inhabit agricultural lands and openings created by timber removal. Brewer's Blackbird and Western Meadowlark are widely distributed while Marbled Godwit, Black-billed Magpie, and Sprague's Pipit are found only in the vicinity of Piney, 3 km west of the main study area. Other species generally associated with farmlands include Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Eastern Kingbird, Horned Lark, Bobolink, Savannah Sparrow, and Vesper Sparrow.

The close proximity of Lake of the Woods to the study area also contributes to its diversity of birds. White Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, Herring Gulls, Ring-billed Gulls, Bonaparte's Gulls, and Common Terns frequent the shallow waters of Whitemouth Lake for feeding. Whitemouth, Sprague, Mud, and Moose Lakes support a number of other waterbirds, including Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Common Goldeneye, and Hooded Merganser. Marshy borders of lakes and streams provide habitat for Great Blue Heron, American Bittern, Sora, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Yellow Warbler, Yellowthroat, Red-winged Blackbird, and Swamp Sparrow.

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